Parents and teens need to review some basic automotive tips for safe driving. Driving is dangerous business, and teens sometimes are impatient. So parents must supervise, correct, and set a good example.

BEFORE YOU START

Before every trip, have your teen do the following:
- Fasten seatbelt
- Adjust seat position
- Adjust rearview mirror and side mirrors
- Adjust steering wheel
- Lock doors
- Take a careful look in all directions

WHILE YOUR TEEN IS DRIVING

- Know the speed limit on the road. Keep speed at or below the posted speed limit.
- Keep the focus of your attention forward, but constantly checking rearview mirrors. Know what is behind you and how far it is from your back bumper.
- Concentrate on the job at hand. Avoid distractions, since the job is about paying attention!
- Look down the road as far as you can and then concentrate on the flow of traffic and the vehicles in your lane.

A FEW MORE TIPS . . .

If you approach a flashing red traffic light, come to a complete stop, yield the right-of-way to traffic within the intersection or crosswalk, and proceed when safe. This sign is used at dangerous intersections or when a stop sign alone is hard to see. Flashing red lights are also used at railroad crossings to warn of approaching trains. Stop. You must come to a complete stop even if the train is not present. Never try to beat a train to a crossing.

A steady yellow light or arrow indicates that the light is about to change. If you have not entered the intersection, you should come to a stop. If you are already in the intersection, continue moving in order to clear it. Never speed up to avoid stopping at a red light, since this dangerous behavior can cause a crash.

For additional information go to www.SafeTeenDriving.org

Prince William County Public Schools
Department of Motor Vehicles